

APPENDIX F.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Synopsis of Activity In Surrounding States Regarding Potential District Divisions

Colorado

Cherry Creek School District #5 Deannexation Committee Report 1995: This report was created as a result of demands by local citizens in a new developing part of the Cherry Creek School District to create their own school system in accordance with Colorado law.

The proposal was to create a new district for a new area under development which had very few homes at that time. It was determined that the new area would not be able to build schools virtually without any tax base as the development was just beginning. Therefore no action was taken after the study, however it looked into and included the H. Walberg study and other studies of the benefits of smaller districts.

Other districts: In 2001 four districts were created from two: West Yuma (550 students), Liberty (150), Ray (800), and Idelia (130). These divisions happened because the large distances were increasing transportation costs so much. Telephone conversations with school personnel indicate high satisfaction on both sides of each district although there were some problems with the division of assets between the Ray and Idelia Districts.

New Mexico

The Cherry Creek study also included studies of two districts in New Mexico that were recently created out of existing districts. They were the Rio Rancho, a suburb of Albuquerque, and Zuni School Districts.

Rio Rancho citizens felt they were not able to get sufficient schools built under the large Albuquerque District and immediately after deannexation passed bonds to allow more schools to be built. Zuni was created from the Gallup District to conform with the existing boundaries of the Zuni Indian Reservation. It allowed "...a higher level of integration and support from its tribal government..." since the rest of the district was either the city of Gallup or the Navajo Reservation and they had no representation on the board. The study lists pros and cons of the issue as well as problems encountered after they were created. It states that citizen satisfaction remained high afterward.

Also included in this study was a summary of attempts to create new districts from the Los Angeles, Palos Verdes, and Folsom Cordova School Districts. The Los Angeles attempt failed and there was no information as to how the other two fared.

Idaho

Jefferson County School District was divided in the 1980's, and Bonner and Latah Counties were also divided in 2000. All three were divided under similar circumstances as the 2001 divisions in Colorado.

Nevada

Nevada's State Constitution requires county wide school districts. There have been legislative attempts recently to divide Clark County, but these have failed.

Arizona

No new school districts have been formed in the past 15 years.

Other Resources and Web Sites

Smaller Schools Website: See: <http://www.smallerschools.org> This web page is the work of Representative David N. Cox, a member of the Committee.

Education next: A Journal of Opinion and Research. Published quarterly by the Hoover Institute at Stanford University in conjunction with the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, the Thomas B. Fordham Foundation, and the Manhattan Institute. See: <http://www.educationnext.org>.

National Education Association (Washington, D.C.). This is the largest and most powerful labor union the United States. It consistently champions increased school funding and generally opposes downsizing efforts and the privatization of any services typically provided by public school districts. See: <http://www.nea.org/topics/> for more information on the NEA's position.

The Heritage Foundation (Washington, D.C.): A national public policy research organization that has published considerable material on education issues: See: <http://www.heritage.org/research/education>

The Mackinac Center for Public Policy (Midland, Michigan): The Center publishes Michigan Privatization Report quarterly. See: <http://www.mackinac.org/pubs/mpr/> This publication focuses on successful and failed efforts to effectively contract out or privatize government services. Though focused on Michigan, the Center is a resource for ideas for public school management.

The Sutherland Institute (Salt Lake City, Utah): A public policy research organization giving thought to education in Utah. Its orientation is to view public policy especially in light of the impact on the family. See: <http://www.sutherlandinstitute.org/>

Utah Education Association (Murray, Utah). This is the Utah affiliate of the National Education Association. See: <http://www.utea.org/index.htm>

Utah Foundation: A good resource for economic analysis on various public policy issues. See: <http://www.utahpriorities.net>

Utah Taxpayers Association: Does research and publishes materials on school district finances and other materials. Its primary mission is to keep taxes low and see that tax dollars are used wisely. See: <http://www.utahtaxpayers.org/>

Utah School Boards Association (Sandy, Utah): Provides lobbying, training and other resources for members of school boards. (860 East 9085 South, Sandy, UT 84094-3064) Phone: 801-566-1207.

Utah State Code: Utah law is available on the state's web site. Those interested in public policy regarding the Utah State System of Public Education may reference current law Title 53A. (see:
<http://www.le.state.ut.us/~code/TITLE53A/TITLE53A.htm>

